

[22 February. 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Industries & Commerce, Handloom & Textiles, Sericulture, Khadi & Village Industries, Tourism, Transport, Public Distribution system, Employment Opportunities in other parts of the Country and abroad.

In the current year the new scheme is expected to generate employment for around 35,000; of these those directly employed will be around 19,700 and those indirectly employed around 15,300.

Coastal Highway from Balasore to Gopalpur

204. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the estimated cost of the project to construct a Coastal Highway from Balasore to Gopalpur in Orissa;
- (b) the fund allocation made for the project so far; and
- (c) the steps taken to expedite construction of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD). B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) Construction of Coastal Highway from Digha to Gopalpur is in proposal stage only. The State Government has submitted Terms of Reference for conducting Feasibility Study. This is under scrutiny in the Ministry. Details of the estimated cost of the Project will be known after completion of the Feasibility Study. So far no fund has been sanctioned by the Centre for this Project.

National Highways in Andhra Pradesh

205. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) what are the details of the State Highways which are proposed to be converted as National Highways in Andhra Pradesh during the year 2000-2001;
- (b) what is the present requirement of length of Highways to be widened to four lanes; and

(c) what are the details of funds that are being allotted for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) A length of about 128 Kms. has been added to the NH network in Andhra Pradesh during 2000-2001. Expansion of National Highway network is considered from time to time keeping in view the traffic needs, *inter-se* priority of porposals and availability of funds. It is not possible to indicate details in advance.

(b) As per assessment a length of 2255 kms. of National Highways is required to be four laned in Andhra Pradesh. The development of NHs including widening is a continuous process and this is done in a phased manner keeping in view traffic needs, *inter-se* priority and the availability of funds.

(c) During 2000-2001, an amount of Rs. 102.38 crore has been provided so far to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the development of National Highways in Andhra Pradesh.

National Highways in Himachal Pradesh

† 206. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated and spent during the last year for construction of Shimla-Dharamshala, Pinjor Swarghat, Kala Amb-Paunta Sahib and Hoshiarpur-Mandi National Highways in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) by when these highways are likely to be constructed and what is the estimated amount of expenditure to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Six number of improvement works amounting to Rs. 9.02 crore were sanctioned during the last year on these National

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.